

Montana-Dakota May Acquire Subsidiary-Owned Facilities

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Federal Power commission has received an application from Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, Minneapolis, Minn., requesting authorization to acquire facilities in Montana and North Dakota to be constructed or acquired by Fidelity Gas Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Montana-Dakota.

Montana-Dakota has also asked FPC permission to assume a \$612,500 installment note, due 1966, issued by Fidelity Gas Company to the United States of America to cover advances made by the government and to assume the indenture of mortgage securing the note, which indenture is between Fidelity Gas Company and the Marquette National Bank of Minneapolis, as trustee.

Fidelity Gas Company has been inactive for some time but is the designated operator under a unit plan of development in the Bowdoin gas field and holds title to minor accounts of gas acreage. It has made arrangements with the government through the rural electrification administration for construction of the electric transmission lines involved in Montana-Dakota's application. Under the agreement with the government, the lines would be conveyed to Montana-Dakota before energization so that Fidelity Gas will not at any time be engaged in the electric utility business.

Facilities to be constructed by Fidelity for acquisition by Montana-Dakota include 33/57-KV transmission lines from Williston, N. D., to a junction near Zahl, N. D., with extensions to Noonan, N. D., and Antelope, Mont.; from Kincaid, N. D., to Bowbells, N. D.; and from Glendive, Mont., to Dickinson, N. D. The cost was estimated at \$1,014,453. Montana-Dakota operates an electric utility business in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, and also distributes natural gas in these states and in Wyoming. The electric transmission facilities to be purchased would be used to provide further service to the rural areas in which the facilities are located.

By late August, the new Rangely, Colo., oil field had 94 producing wells with only one dry hole.

Bar Group Hits FPC Activities

WASHINGTON—Still another attack upon the embattled Federal Power commission for its activities in regulating the natural gas industry has been delivered by the Committee on Natural Gas of the American Bar Association.

The bar association group has found "nothing of substance" to indicate that the FPC has modified or changed its views and practices. The government agency continues to follow "the theory that the determination of both the extent of its powers and the manner of the exercise thereof are purely 'administrative prerogatives,'" the committee complained in its annual report.

Water in gas tanks resulting from moisture condensation can be picked up by a chemical added to the fuel and dispersed through the gasoline in such a way that combustion is aided. These "soaps" are water-pickup agents of the polyethanolamine series.

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pleted another gasser 5½ miles to the northwest.

Drilling in this area has been principally to shallow horizons with no tests made of the Devonian, productive of oil in the Princess field 120 miles north of the border, and of high pressure gas on Texaco's Utopia structure, to the south.

Plans are reported under way to extend gas gathering facilities in the district, to provide an outlet for wells now shut in.

Send a contribution to the Sunburst Badger.

Growth of American investment in foreign oil has been rapid. In 1919, the total was \$339,000,000; in 1929, \$1,400,000,000; today it is \$2,500,000,000.

The extended use of synthetic rubber has resulted in a 30 percent increase in the demand for carbon black this year; 1946 carbon black production is expected to reach 1,365,000,000 pounds.

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TO FIND OIL—DRILL FOR IT!

Of interest to operators in general are the remarks of an official in the producing department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, as reported by the Oil Forum of New York city.

After reviewing the abundant supply of coals and shales from which oil may be obtained, the writer declared:

"Greatest opportunities and prospects for increased oil production lie not in development of substitute fuels, or application of secondary recovery techniques on a more widespread scale, BUT RATHER IN EXPLORATION FOR AND DISCOVERY OF NEW OIL FIELDS."

"This," he added, "is becoming a much more costly operation, but one that is justified by the stakes involved."

And he added:

"With every firm rise in oil prices—say 15 cents a barrel—there will be increased incentive for venture capital to be expended in the search for new petroleum sources."

The talk is of interest to independents because it appears to indicate the attitude of one of the nation's major oil companies.

Independent oil men are still gun-shy after years of New Deal injustice. They will be cheered to note the general temper of the industry and the apparent realization that if the nation wants A GREATER OIL RESERVE, it can get it.

But the price of crude still needs some adjusting, to bring returns more in line with the increasingly heavy expenditures involved in discovery and production of crude oil. And the signs are many that such increases in crude prices are on the way.

This advertisement is one of a series, sponsored by Montana independent oil producers, to acquaint the producers with facts vital to their welfare, and from time to time to acquaint the public with some of the problems now confronting this vital industry. These advertisements will be continued throughout 1946.

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Important Announcement:

IMPROVED BRANSFORD MAP: This 50 by 36-inch map shows every wildcat ever drilled in Montana, designates the section in which it was drilled, gives total depth, and by symbol indicates whether it was dry or showed oil or gas.

IN ADDITION, this map has now been altered to include a correlation of Montana, Alberta and Saskatchewan range numbers along the entire Montana border.

ALSO this map gives outlines of all Montana oil and gas fields, shows location of all principal anticlines, gives county and township boundaries, and names county seats.

PLUS two cross sections showing geological formations in two areas, one extending from Glacier Park to Bowdoin dome, the other taking in the section eastward from the Elk Basin field through the Baker-Glendive anticline.

Information on this map is CORRECT. Every well shown on the map has been checked against the log records of the Montana Oil Conservation Board.

AND FINALLY, this map is corrected and brought up to June, 1946. It may be seen at our office. Price \$5.25 for paper, \$8.75 for map with linen backing.

MONTANA OIL JOURNAL

Supply Department

518 First Avenue South P. O. Box 2050 Great Falls, Montana